Circulation of Ave rupee denomination notes

1019. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:
SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that five rupee denomination new notes are not being supplied to currency chest branches of the nationalised banks;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by when new notes will come into circulation in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) No, Sir. The printing of new Rs. 5 denomination bank notes in the Ashoka Pillar design **was** resumed during May, 2001 and, about 184 million pieces of these notes have been supplied to the currency chest branches of the nationalised banks. However preference is being given to branches in such regions where shortage of Rs. 5 coins is noticed in the North Eastern Region.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The new (Rs. 5/-) notes have already come into circulation in the country. The printing of Rs. 5 notes is continuing in full swing which would significantly increase Rs. 5 new notes in circulation.

Organisational changes In Andhra Bank

1020. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Bank is undergoing a major organisational change;

(b) if so, whether the bank is going to reduce the number of its zonal offices and branches and introduce Voluntary Retirement Scheme for its officers and staff; and